



**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**Southeast Region Inventory and Monitoring Branch**  
**FY15 I&M Interim Report**

**Title:** Herpetofaunal Inventory and Occurrence Species Mapping in the Culebra National Wildlife Refuge's offshore cays.

**Project ID:** FY15-IM

**Principal Investigators:**

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**Project Description:** The focus of this project is to determine amphibian and reptile diversity and occurrence along each individual cay landscape as part of the Culebra's NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) priorities for long-term conservation planning and management.

**Project Objectives:**

- Determine biodiversity and occurrence of amphibian and reptile species in 14 offshore cays of the Culebra National Wildlife Refuge's (NWR).
- Provide the baseline species information to be used in the future for continued studies and/or management decisions.
- Record GPS locations and elaborate GIS layers of species occurrence to determine species distribution per area.
- Determine if the federally listed endangered Virgin Island tree boa (VI boa, *Chilabothrus granti*) is present in the offshore cays, as there is suitable potential habitat for the species.

**Progress and Preliminary Data Summary:** A total of 12 offshore cays were visited from November 2015 to September 2016 (Table 1). Reptiles were the group most represented at each of the study sites. Table 2. Summarize species documented at each sampling site. No VI boa or Culebra giant anole were documented during the visits.

**Budget**

Private boat:	\$2,400.00
Gas for personal owned vehicles and ferry tickets:	\$ 552.00
Technician:	\$1,280.00
<b>Total Expended:</b>	<b>\$4,232.00</b>

Table 1. Cays surveyed

Offshore Cay Name	Number of visits
Luis Peña	3
Culebrita	3
Del Agua	1
Ratón	1
Yerba	1
Lobo	1
Lobito	1
Matojo	1
Geniquí	1
Pela	1
Pelaita	1
Botella	1

Table 2. Herpetofauna Species documented at the study sites

Offshore Cay Name	Common name	Scientific Name
Luis Peña	Puerto Rican Racer	<i>Borikenophis portoricensis</i>
	Puerto Rican Crested Anole	<i>Anolis cristatellus</i>
	Puerto Rican Bush Anole	<i>Anolis pulchellus</i>
	Puerto Rican Eyespot Sphaero	<i>Sphaerodactylus macrolepis</i>
	Puerto Rican Sandy Sphaero	<i>Spaerodactylus townsendi</i>
Culebrita	Puerto Rican Crested Anole	<i>Anolis cristatellus</i>
	Puerto Rican Eyespot Sphaero	<i>Sphaerodactylus macrolepis</i>
	Puerto Rican Sandy Sphaero	<i>Spaerodactylus townsendi</i>
Del Agua	Puerto Rican Crested Anole	<i>Anolis cristatellus</i>
	Puerto Rican Sandy Sphaero	<i>Spaerodactylus townsendi</i>
	Puerto Rican Giant Whiptail	<i>Pholidoscelis exsul</i>
	Culebra Skink	<i>Spondylurus culebrae</i>
Ratón	Puerto Rican Crested Anole	<i>Anolis cristatellus</i>
	Puerto Rican Sandy Sphaero	<i>Sphaerodactylus townsendi</i>
Yerba	Puerto Rican Crested Anole	<i>Anolis cristatellus</i>
	Culebra Skink	<i>Spondylurus culebrae</i>
Lobo	Puerto Rican Crested Anole	<i>Anolis cristatellus</i>
	Puerto Rican Bush Anole	<i>Anolis pulchellus</i>
	Puerto Rican Giant Whiptail	<i>Pholidoscelis exsul</i>

Table 2. Cont.

	Puerto Rican Eyespot Sphaero	<i>Sphaerodactylus macrolepis</i>
Lobito	Puerto Rican Crested Anole Puerto Rican Sandy Sphaero	<i>Anolis cristatellus</i> <i>Sphaerodactylus townsendi</i>
Molino	Puerto Rican Crested Anole	<i>Anolis cristatellus</i>
Geniquí	Puerto Rican Crested Anole Puerto Rican Sandy Sphaero	<i>Anolis cristatellus</i> <i>Sphaerodactylus townsendi</i>
Pela	Puerto Rican Crested Anole Puerto Rican Eyespot Sphaero Puerto Rican Sandy Sphaero Puerto Rican Giant Whiptail	<i>Anolis cristatellus</i> <i>Sphaerodactylus macrolepis</i> <i>Sphaerodactylus townsendi</i> <i>Pholidoscelis exsul</i>
Pelaita	Puerto Rican Crested Anole Tropical House Gecko	<i>Anolis cristatellus</i> <i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>
Botella	Puerto Rican Crested Anole	<i>Anolis cristatellus</i>

**Accomplishments to Date:**

**Task 1** – At least one visit to the sampling areas, and 3 visits to the largest cays.

**Task 2** – Baseline data on reptile species were documented at each site.

**Task 3** – No detection of the VI boa or the Culebra Giant Anole.

**Expected Completion Data:** September 2017

**Interim Report Submission Date:** February 2017



Figure 1. A. Puerto Rican Eyespot Sphaero *Sphaerodactylus macrolepis*  
 B. Puerto Rican Sandy Sphaero *Sphaerodactylus townsendi*  
 C. Puerto Rican Giant Whiptail *Pholidoscelis exsul*.  
 D. Puerto Rican Bush Anole *Anolis pulchellus*  
 E. Puerto Rican Crested Anole *Anolis cristatellus*